

documents and books from Vattermare in June 1850.⁵²

Probably because of the expense involved, the General Assembly terminated the project on January 28, 1851. In November 1852 Vattermare wrote Governor David S. Reid in an attempt to rekindle North Carolina's interest in the program. To a certain extent he relied on flattery:

The kindness with which my mission was received by the general assembly who voted a most liberal appropriation to carry out the system, the valuable donation of books and carolinian Documents, and my appointments by the executive as the honored agent of the state were the best evidence of the success of my mission to north carolina and the determination of the legislature and people to sanction our System and to remain a faithful member of this great and peaceful confederacy of the civilized nations of the earth, a true republic of letters where power and influence embrace the universe.⁵³

The noble Frenchman referred to his 1851 report, which had suggested the creation of a permanent department in Raleigh to expedite the exchanges with the central agency. Such a department, if under the direction of a local agent or committee, could determine the most pressing needs of the state library. Vattermare urged Reid to suggest the type of material the state desired and to report what it had to send in return. He also enclosed a copy of the original resolution of the General Assembly, apparently to remind the wayward Carolinians of their commitment.⁵⁴

During North Carolina's brief association with Vattermare the state library acquired approximately 164 volumes, including a few sixteenth and seventeen-century imprints.⁵⁵